

पी दिया। उसमें हमारा सीधा सा है कि पब्लिक को इस बात से मतलब नहीं है कि टेलीफोन गवर्नमेंट लगा रही है कि प्रायवेट वाले टेलीफोन लगा रहे हैं या पब्लिक सेक्टर वाले लगा रहे हैं। पब्लिक को चाहिए बढ़िया से बढ़िया सस्ती दर पर टेलीफोन और सेवा। यह पब्लिक के, कंज्यूमर के इंटरेस्ट में है और उसके दृष्टिकोण से हम आगे बढ़ रहे हैं। तीसरा आपने टेलीडेन्सिटी का सवाल पूछा। आपने सही कहा कि हमारी पालिसी है, the Government's policy is that by 2005, the tele-density should go up to 7 per 100; and by 2010, the tele-density should go up to 15 per 100. Today, unfortunately, it is below 3 per 100 in comparison to the world average of 15-16 per 100. For that, we require a lot of money. By 2005, we require about 33 billion American dollars and by 2010, we require about 88 billion American dollars. That is why the Government thinks that the private sector, the public sector and the Government sector, all, should be given a level playing field, so that our rural telephony or world telephony target, our equipment target, could be fulfilled.

श्री गांधी आजाद: दिसम्बर, 1999 में बहुत लुभावने नारे दिए गए कि 50 परसेंट जमा करने पर कनेक्शन दिया जा रहा है। मैं यंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि इस दौरान कितने कनेक्शन के लिए मांग की गयी और उसमें से आज तक कितने कनेक्शन लग गए, कितने शेष हैं और ये कब तक पूरे देश में लग जाएंगे?

श्री रामविलास पासवान: वह तो मैंने बता दिया है। पहले ही बता दिया।

...(व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Withdrawal of subsidy given to farmers of Punjab

*403. **SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has asked Government to instruct Punjab Government to withdraw subsidy/freebies given

to the farmers of Punjab in the shape of free water/electricity by early next year; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA):
(a) and (b) The World Bank has not asked the Central Government to instruct Punjab Government to withdraw subsidies given to the farmers of Punjab in the shape of free water/electricity by early next year. But in course of appraisal of the Punjab Water Resources Management Project (PWRMP) in 1996-97, the Bank had stipulated that Government of Punjab adopt a Water Resources Policy which, *inter alia*, would promote that the users and polluters contribute to the investment cost and pay for full Operation and Maintenance of Public Water Supply Systems, whether for irrigation, power, domestic or industrial. Following announcement of the provision of free water and power for farmers in February, 1997, the Bank declined to process the project further.

Study by IDBI on restructuring of TCOs

*404. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study for restructuring and strengthening of seventeen Technical Consultancy Organisations (TCOs), to equip them to meet the challenge of the changed environment and envisage their future role was made by IDBI;

(b) if so, the salient findings of the study and action taken by Government on each recommendation;

(c) whether any specific action plan has been contemplated for the North-East where the services of NEITCO are being increasingly felt necessary for accelerating the pace of economic development; and

(d) if so, the target set and present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has appointed a reputed consultant to independently study the performance of all